

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 417

Washington, D. C.

August 15, 1931

DATA ON EFFECT OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE DESIRED

As stated in a special communication mailed last week to members, the executive officers, acting under authority conferred by the Board of Directors, have approved intervention by the Association against the proposed horizontal increase of 15 per cent in freight rates.

Formal protest has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission and arrangements made for representatives of the Association to appear at the hearings in Chicago beginning August 31st. Hearings are now in progress in different parts of the country, affording an opportunity for those opposed to the increase to present evidence sustaining their position.

The Association, with the assistance of its counsel, is assembling data for presentation at the hearing in Chicago. Member canners have been requested to send in promptly any facts or information pertinent to the case, particularly evidence as to the effect that the proposed higher rates will have on the business of canners, both the production of their output and the volume of their sales.

While the railroads have informed the Interstate Commerce Commission that they propose to apply the increase, if granted, to all classes of commodities, the Interstate Commerce Commission may, if the evidence presented at the hearing justifies, except certain products or groups of products from any increase that may be allowed. For this reason it is particularly desirable that the Association be supplied with evidence as to the adverse effect of any changes in rates that would disturb the relative rates now applied to canned foods and to bulk shipments of agricultural products with which they compete.

In order that the Association's counsel may have time in which to prepare the data for presentation to the Commission, it is very important that members communicate their views to the Association not later than August 20th.

CANNING CROP FORECASTS

On the basis of condition on August 1, the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that the production of sweet

corn for canning will be 5 per cent larger than the estimated production for 1930; that the production of snap beans for canning will be 19.4 per cent below that of 1930, and that the production of tomatoes for manufacture will be 31 per cent less than that of last year.

The average condition of corn, tomatoes, lima beans, and cucumbers for pickles was better on August 1 than on the same date last year. Snap beans, cabbage for kraut, and beets were in poorer condition.

The following figures are from the Government reports:

Sweet Corn

Based upon condition and probable yields reported by canners and growers on August 1, the 1931 forecast of production of sweet corn for canning is 5 per cent larger than the estimated production in 1930. From these indications it appears that a total of 694,500 tons were in prospect on August 1, compared with a production of 660,800 tons in 1930, and with a five-year average of 708,700 tons for the period 1925-1929.

On a planted acreage 8 per cent less than that harvested in 1930, the indicated yield per acre is 1.99 tons, compared with 1.76 tons in 1930, and with an average of 2.20 tons for the five-year period, 1925-1929.

Condition of the crop dropped from 90.1 per cent of normal on July 15 to 79.1 per cent on August 1. The only areas to hold the very favorable growing conditions of July 15 were the New England States and New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. In the North Central States the crop suffered from the effects of excessive heat and lack of moisture during the latter half of July. Serious damage was reported from parts of this region, especially from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. The crop has also suffered to some extent in Maryland and Delaware.

State	Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
Maine	13,200	11,300	3.7	3.1	48,800	35,000
New Hampshire	1,050	950	3.0	2.9	3,200	2,800
Vermont	2,100	1,330	2.3	2.7	4,800	3,600
New York	23,000	17,600	1.3	2.5	29,900	44,000
Pennsylvania	6,300	5,600	.8	2.0	5,000	11,200
Ohio	32,500	30,600	1.1	2.3	35,800	70,400
Indiana	43,500	37,200	1.3	1.7	56,600	63,200
Illinois	72,000	68,300	2.0	2.1	144,000	143,400
Michigan	7,300	8,200	.6	.8	4,400	6,600
Wisconsin	13,000	13,000	2.4	1.2	31,200	15,600
Minnesota	54,000	46,200	2.4	1.9	129,600	87,800
Iowa	55,000	51,200	2.0	2.0	110,000	102,400
Nebraska	8,000	7,800	1.4	1.6	11,200	12,500
Delaware	3,630	3,100	1.8	2.0	6,500	6,200
Maryland	34,000	39,700	.7	1.8	23,800	71,500
Tennessee	3,400	3,400	2.0	2.5	6,800	8,500
Other states * ..	3,830	3,780	2.4	2.0	9,200	9,900
U. S. total ..	375,810	340,260	1.76	1.99	660,800	694,500

* Other states include: Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

Snap Beans

Based upon reported condition and probable yield per acre on August 1, the 1931 forecast of production of snap beans for canning is 19.4 per cent below the estimated production in 1930. A crop of 68,790 tons, which is 5 per cent under the forecast of July 15, is indicated by these reports. Production in 1930 was 85,300 tons, and for the five-year period, 1925-1929, the average production was 63,380 tons.

The crop has suffered severe damage through excessive heat and lack of moisture in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Southern States. Early plantings in many fields were almost a total loss, and later plantings are seriously threatened in many areas. This damage, however, has been partially offset by more favorable conditions in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and most of the Far Western States.

On an acreage estimated at 75 per cent of the 1930 acreage, the indicated yield per acre is only 7 per cent above the extremely low yield of 1930.

State	Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
Maine	1,300	1,000	2.7	2.5	3,500	2,500
New York	11,270	7,400	1.3	1.6	14,600	11,840
Pennsylvania	3,450	2,800	.8	1.8	2,800	5,040
Indiana	3,710	3,500	.6	.7	2,200	2,450
Michigan	5,990	5,800	.9	.9	5,400	5,220
Wisconsin	9,000	7,500	.8	.8	7,200	6,000
Delaware	2,300	2,550	.7	1.0	1,600	2,550
Maryland	9,740	7,600	.8	1.5	7,800	11,400
South Carolina	1,400	700	1.0	.9	1,400	630
Tennessee	2,450	2,130	1.0	.7	2,400	1,490
Mississippi	2,640	1,720	1.0	1.2	2,600	2,060
Arkansas	3,000	2,380	.5	.5	1,500	1,190
Louisiana	3,500	1,500	1.2	.8	4,200	1,200
Colorado	2,100	940	4.0	2.5	8,400	2,350
Utah	1,280	200	3.1	3.5	4,000	700
Washington	940	750	3.3	3.8	3,100	2,850
Oregon	800	400	3.5	4.0	2,800	1,600
California	770	640	3.9	4.0	3,000	2,560
Other states * ..	8,750	6,450	.8	.8	6,800	5,160
U. S. total ...	74,390	55,960	1.15	1.23	85,300	68,790

* Other states include: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Tomatoes

Production of tomatoes for canning or manufacture will be 31 per cent below that of 1930, according to indications on the condition of the crop on August 1. The forecast of production, based upon condition reported by canners and growers on August 1, is 1,254,800 tons, compared with a production of 1,815,600 tons in 1930 and with a five-year average production of 1,297,300 tons for the period 1925-1929.

The estimated acreage for 1931 is 28 per cent less than that grown in 1930 and is about the same as the five-year average from 1925 to 1929. The indicated yield per acre is 4.30 tons, compared with 4.48 tons in 1930 and with the five-year average yield of 4.36 tons.

There has been general complaint of falling blossoms and a light set of fruit, due chiefly to the excessive heat during July. In many areas the

early season drouth resulted in poor stands and a late start, with the result that the crop in these areas is 3 to 4 weeks later than last year and will be subject to greater frost hazard. The condition of the crop is slightly below the 10-year average condition on August 1, with relatively unfavorable conditions of growth prevailing in Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Utah, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

State	Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
New York.....	15,500	12,100	5.0	6.6	77,500	79,900
New Jersey....	43,000	31,000	6.0	5.7	258,000	176,700
Pennsylvania..	5,400	4,300	3.0	3.6	16,200	15,500
Ohio.....	12,400	9,900	5.4	5.4	67,000	53,500
Indiana.....	79,000	64,000	5.0	4.1	395,000	262,400
Illinois.....	6,500	4,500	3.2	4.2	20,800	18,900
Michigan.....	2,000	2,000	5.4	5.8	14,000	11,900
Iowa.....	6,400	6,400	5.0	4.5	32,000	28,800
Missouri.....	28,900	20,230	2.1	2.1	60,700	42,500
Delaware.....	14,000	11,800	3.4	3.6	47,600	42,500
Maryland.....	48,900	39,000	3.1	3.6	151,000	140,400
Virginia.....	15,500	10,800	2.8	3.4	43,400	36,700
Kentucky.....	8,430	5,900	2.6	3.3	21,900	19,500
Tennessee.....	14,000	9,800	2.4	2.2	33,600	21,600
Mississippi....	3,550	2,130	3.1	2.5	11,000	5,300
Arkansas.....	28,000	16,800	2.1	2.2	58,800	37,000
Colorado.....	2,500	2,800	8.5	7.8	21,200	21,800
Utah.....	8,200	6,040	6.8	9.4	55,800	62,400
California.....	52,250	23,160	7.6	6.5	397,100	150,500
Other states*..	9,700	8,800	3.3	3.1	32,300	27,300
U. S. total...	404,820	292,060	4.48	4.30	1,815,500	1,254,800

* Other states include: Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Cabbage

The production forecast of domestic cabbage for shipment and kraut manufacture in the late group of states, based upon August 1 condition, is 286,800 tons, or 12 per cent smaller than the 1930 crop. While present conditions point to lower yields in Colorado, Minnesota, Utah, and Wisconsin, higher yields are expected in Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, and the indicated yield for the group is 9 per cent above last year's yield.

Beginning with this report, the Government estimates of late cabbage in the Northern States again cover the total crop, including that portion utilized by kraut manufacturers as well as the shipping crop. In two of the most important late states, so large a part of the crop is free to move either to market or to kraut factories that the total acreage and production is a better criterion of the cabbage situation than separate estimates on shipping and kraut stock. In these states the utilization of the crop can not readily be predicted in advance of the actual harvest and pack. Separate reports will continue to be issued on the portion of the total cabbage crop expected to enter kraut production, based on packers' reports of their contracts and of their probable non-contract requirements. At the close of the season, complete appraisal of the cabbage crop utilization will be used as the basis for separate shipping and kraut estimates.

Cherries

The 1931 preliminary estimate of cherry production, in the 10 states for which an estimate is made, is placed at 95,200 tons, which is compared to 106,820 tons produced in 1930, and 81,021 the average of the preceding five crops. The crop in New York exceeds the average production for the five years 1925 to 1929, though only about 70 per cent of the large crop produced in 1930. The 1931 crop in Michigan is estimated at 24,500 tons, being nearly 5 per cent larger than the large 1930 crop and 75 per cent larger than the average for the preceding five years. In most of the Western States the crop was below average. Washington and Oregon entered the season with prospects for another large crop, but rains during harvest in June caused serious splitting of the fruit. The damage seems to have been most serious in the Yakima and Wenatchee Valleys of Washington, where greatest loss resulted to Bings and Royal Annes. Some of the split fruit went into barrels, but the loss was heavy at best. The California crop was harvested prior to July 1. The crop was large, being about 52 per cent larger than average, but low prices resulted in a heavy tonnage going unharvested.

States	Per cent of a full crop			Production ^a		Pre- lim. est. 1931
	1929	1930	1931	1929	1930	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Tons	Tons	Tons
New York.....	53	90	63	11,900	25,000	17,500
Sweet		74	60			
Sour		93	62			
Pennsylvania	37	43	79			
Ohio	35	44	95			
Michigan	49	65	68	16,500	23,400	24,500
Wisconsin	65	70	70	5,950	6,850	6,900
Montana	74	57	62		270	200
Idaho	77	79	68	3,200	3,500	3,100
Colorado	66	51	34	4,900	2,400	1,700
Utah	72	68	37	4,000	4,500	2,000
Washington	72	75	45	11,000	12,100	7,200
Oregon	58	75	52	9,900	11,300	7,900
California	53	61	77	17,000	17,500	24,200
Ten states.....	57.4	71.5	62.8	84,630	106,820	95,200

^a Estimates of total production based on commercial sales, plus allowances for local sales, home use, etc. California estimate revised in June; others in March, 1931.

Crop Conditions

	Aug. 1, 1931	Aug. 1, 1930	10-year average Aug. 1, 1920-29		Aug. 1, 1931	Aug. 1, 1930	10-year average Aug. 1, 1920-29
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
SWEET CORN							
Maine	80	98	82	Minnesota	71	82	75
New Hampshire	s		81	Iowa	78	74	84
Vermont	92	82	78	Nebraska	67	73	86
New York	95	84	74	Delaware	85	78	78
Pennsylvania	88	44	77	Maryland	85	46	78
Ohio	83	36	73	Tennessee	97	70	
Indiana	79	58	77	Other states.....	80	78	84
Illinois	85	70	81	U. S. average...	79.1	66.8	78.6
Michigan	40	61	73				
Wisconsin	44	84	75				

s No report.

	Aug. 1, 1931 Pct.	Aug. 1, 1930 Pct.	10-year average Aug. 1, 1920-29 Pct.		Aug. 1, 1931 Pct.	Aug. 1, 1930 Pct.	10-year average Aug. 1, 1920-29 Pct.
SNAP BEANS							
Maine	91	95	78	Mississippi	84	..	..
New York	84	80	84	Louisiana	75	..	..
Pennsylvania	78	43	76	Texas	75	..	..
Indiana	35	30	a 72	Colorado	87	90	85
Michigan	46	70	78	Washington	83	72	83
Wisconsin	48	74	86	Oregon	90	..	..
Delaware	73	47	a 78	California	81	85	81
Maryland	73	43	73	Other states	80	63	70
South Carolina	34	..	..		
Tennessee	35	45	73	U. S. average	77.9	75.4	76.9
Mississippi	55	..	..	a No report.			
Arkansas	34	30	a 75				
Louisiana	59	..	80	KRAUT CABBAGE			
Colorado	72	77	86	New York	88	84	82
Utah	94	90	86	Ohio	80	73	80
Washington	88	90	81	Indiana	88	78	78
Oregon	88	88	82	Illinois	75	80	84
California	92	85	86	Michigan	85	81	81
Other states	43	46	72	Wisconsin	60	85	80
U. S. average	59.1	59.8	79.0	Minnesota	55	80	78
a Six-year average.				Colorado	60	75	85
				Washington	74	87	86
TOMATOES				Other states	70	70	79
New York	91	80	85	U. S. average	75.8	80.8	80.8
New Jersey	85	86	81				
Pennsylvania	80	78	81				
Ohio	87	73	79				
Indiana	81	74	77				
Illinois	83	77	74				
Michigan	89	68	81	GREEN LIMA BEANS			
Iowa	77	75	81				
Missouri	61	61	79	Delaware	85	84	78
Delaware	76	77	78	Maryland	73	83	54
Maryland	74	72	76	Michigan	35	60	68
Virginia	71	58	68	Minnesota	82	90	85
Kentucky	77	62	74	New Jersey	80	95	81
Tennessee	64	62	72	Ohio	80	80	30
Arkansas	64	55	80	Virginia	82	82	55
Colorado	80	89	82	Other states	75	78	76
Utah	78	63	86				
California	86	85	83	U. S. average	76.5	81.0	67.6
Other states	68	72	77				
U. S. average	77.4	73.3	78.4				
CUCUMBERS							
Massachusetts	a	80	..	BEETS			
New York	79	76	76	Colorado	85	90	90
Ohio	74	78	78	Indiana	88	95	75
Indiana	85	74	78	Michigan	73	81	70
Illinois	72	75	77	New Jersey	90	90	85
Michigan	79	75	76	New York	80	87	85
Wisconsin	70	78	76	Ohio	a	..	40
Minnesota	77	75	71	Oregon	70	70	80
Iowa	79	70	75	Utah	85	82	90
Missouri	62	65	77	Washington	90	85	92
Maryland	80	..	..	Wisconsin	53	78	79
Virginia	75	..	..	Other states	65	73	84
Kentucky	a	..	..	U. S. average	68.6	81.0	81.1
				a No report.			

EDIBLE BEANS AND FRUITS

Edible beans suffered from the extreme heat and dryness of July and the August 1 condition indicates a crop of about 20,660,000 bushels. While this is much less than the indication a month ago, it is larger than any bean crop produced prior to 1929 and 1930. Most of the July loss in the prospective crop was in Michigan and Colorado, in each of which states the decline was almost a million bushels. The final outcome of the bean crop is still very uncertain, but from present indications the pinto bean production will be less than half as great as the huge crop of last year, while the pea bean crop of Michigan and New York will exceed that of last year by more than half. The indicated crop of Great Northern beans is about a tenth less, and lima beans in California almost a tenth less, with other California beans more than a third less. The following table gives figures on edible beans and apples, peaches, and pears:

	Condition, Aug. 1—		Production—	
	1930 Per cent	1931 Per cent	1930 Revised	1931 Aug. 1 forecast
Beans, dry edible <i>a</i> bus.	77.3	74.8	21,900,000	20,700,000
Apples, total..... bus.	48.6	68.9	164,000,000	218,000,000
Apples, commercial..... bbls.	54.2	68.8	33,700,000	38,800,000
Peaches, total..... bus.	46.1	76.5	53,000,000	77,100,000
Pears..... bus.	63.1	60.2	27,000,000	24,100,000

a Principal states.

TRUCK CROP SHIPMENTS FALL OFF

Shipments of fruits and vegetables during the week ended August 28 fell to 19,790 cars, or about 4,000 less than the preceding week, owing to the much lighter movement of watermelons, tomatoes, peaches, oranges, apples and miscellaneous melons.

	Aug. 2-8 1931	July 29- Aug. 1 1931	Aug. 3-9 1930	Total this sea- son thru Aug. 8	Total last sea- son thru Aug. 9	Total last season
Apples, total.....	295	661	573	3,853	4,481	109,735
Eastern states.....	92	390	265	2,120	2,619	43,192
Western states.....	203	281	308	1,733	1,862	66,543
Beans, snap and lima....	38	60	49	8,560	8,819	9,559
Blackberries, dewberries, loganberries.....	20	15	149	.....	.....	.....
Cabbage.....	293	188	341	20,234	17,133	38,302
Carrots.....	42	52	56	1,861	9,632	12,443
Cauliflower.....	19	26	18	175	89	9,602
Cherries.....	11	22	13	1,852	2,558	2,581
Cucumbers.....	43	76	90	5,399	6,247	7,643
Peaches.....	6,443	8,042	3,381	25,007	20,150	38,409
Pears.....	1,197	1,293	1,812	6,285	6,518	28,835
Peas, green.....	164	186	127	5,913	5,630	6,800
Peppers.....	6	17	20	2,544	2,139	2,786
Plums and prunes.....	80	104	276	3,312	4,638	8,716
Spinach.....	4	3	5	9,347	9,412	9,636
Tomatoes.....	202	408	313	21,296	22,988	33,578

WEATHER CONDITIONS

While high temperatures continued in Eastern States until near the close of the week ending August 11, the latter part of the period brought a definite and decided break in the severe heat wave that has persisted in Central-Northern and Eastern States, according to the Weather Bureau.

The week averaged decidedly warmer than normal in the Atlantic area, and from the Ohio and central Mississippi Valleys northward, while elsewhere seasonable warmth to abnormally low temperatures were the rule.

The latter part of the week brought substantial to heavy rainfall to numerous localities from the central Great Plains eastward over the lower Missouri, central Mississippi, and Ohio Valleys, as well as to the Middle Atlantic area. The falls were unusually heavy in most of Missouri, west-central Kansas, and in some central districts east of the Mississippi River. West of the Rocky Mountains it was practically rainless, while only light to moderate showers were the rule over much of the Northwest.

BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ending Saturday; weekly average 1923-25=100)

	1931			1930		
	Aug. 8	Aug. 1	July 25	Aug. 9	Aug. 2	July 26
General business:*						
New York Times.....	73.3	73.2	80.9	85.2	85.5	
Business Week.....	72.8	75.1	87.2	86.6	91.0	
Freight car loadings.....	79.0	77.4	94.3	95.9	95.9	
Wholesale prices (Fisher's):						
All commodities.....	69.5	69.3	69.5	83.1	82.9	83.3
Agricultural products.....	59.3	60.0	60.5	85.4	84.8	85.2
Non-agricultural products.....	72.5	71.8	72.0	81.7	81.9	82.1
Bank debits outside New York City.....	96.1	77.8	87.4	116.6	100.8	110.7
Bond prices.....	105.6	106.4	106.9	107.5	107.2	106.9
Stock prices.....	126.7	129.8	134.8	202.9	206.8	207.1
Interest rates:						
Call money.....	36.4	36.4	36.4	56.5	48.5	48.5
Time money.....	34.3	34.3	34.3	80.0	80.0	80.0
Business failures.....	117.0	118.7	115.2	111.1	115.0	125.3

* Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total		Merchandise	
		Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Preceding week.....	741,752	278,796	212,153	250,803
Corresponding week, 1930.....	919,781	359,251	234,392	325,938
Corresponding week, 1929.....	1,105,920	435,396	259,957	410,567
Week ended August 1.....	757,293	287,312	213,017	256,964

CONTENTS

Page	Page
Data on effect of proposed rate increase desired..... 2609	Truck crop shipments fall off.... 2615
Canning crop forecasts..... 2609	Weather conditions..... 2616
Edible beans and fruits..... 2615	Business indicators..... 2616